

## Message Text

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ACTION EUR-12

INFO OCT-01 ISO-00 AGRE-00 CIAE-00 COME-00 EB-08  
INR-10 LAB-04 NSAE-00 SP-02 STR-07 TRSE-00 FRB-03  
OMB-01 AID-05 CEA-01 SIL-01 L-03 /058 W  
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R 271837Z JUL 78  
FM AMEMBASSY BRUSSELS  
TO SECSTATE WASHDC 8113  
INFO ALL EC CAPITALS  
AMEMBASSY ATHENS  
AMEMBASSY LISBON  
AMEMBASSY MADRID

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USEEC

E.O. 11652:N/A  
TAGS: EEC, GR, SP, PO, ETRD  
SUBJECT: EC FOREIGN MINISTERS COUNCIL, JULY 25: TEXTILES

REFS: (A) BRUSSELS 12801; (B) BRUSSELS 13445; (C)BRUSSELS  
11252

1. SUMMARY: THE EC FOREIGN MINISTERS COUNCIL AT ITS  
JULY 25 MEETING DISCUSSED PROBLEMS ARISING FROM INCREASING  
TEXTILE IMPORTS FROM GREECE, SPAIN AND PORTUGAL WHICH HAVE  
EXCEEDED OR THREATENED THE IMPORT CEILINGS FOR 1978  
AGREED BY THE COUNCIL IN DECEMBER 1977. (REF A).  
AFTER RECEIVING SEVERAL ASSURANCES FROM THE COMMISSION  
THAT CEILINGS WOULD BE MORE ENERGETICALLY ENFORCED,  
THE UK LIFTED ITS RESERVE ON THE AGREEMENT NEGOTIATED  
BY THE COMMISSION WITH PORTUGAL, OPENING THE WAY  
FOR APPROVAL OF THE GREEK AND SPANISH AGREEMENTS AS  
WELL. END SUMMARY.

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2. RESPONDING TO STRONG BRITISH CRITICISM THAT  
IT HAD BEEN SLOW TO INTERVENE, PARTICULARLY IN THE CASE  
OF GREEK T-SHIRTS AND BLOUSES, THE COMMISSION GAVE THE  
COUNCIL NEW ASSURANCES ON TEXTILE IMPORTS:  
- -THE COMMISSION WILL NOT WAIT UNTIL AGREED CEILINGS  
- ON IMPORTS OF SPECIFIC TEXTILE PRODUCTS ARE

- REACHED IN ORDER TO INTERVENE, BUT WILL BEGIN
- CONSULTATIONS WITH THE EXPORTING COUNTRY ONCE A
- MEMBER STATE PROVIDES EVIDENCE OF A RISK OF THE
- CEILING BEING EXCEEDED.
  
- -THE COMMISSION WILL BEGIN DISCUSSIONS WITH
- AN EXPORTING COUNTRY, EVEN IF NO BILATERAL AGREE-
- MENT WITH THE EC EXISTS OR THE COUNTRY IS NOT
- A MEMBER OF THE MULTIFIBERS AGREEMENT, WHEN ITS
- EXPORTS APPEAR LIKELY TO EXCEED A CEILING
- FIXED BY THE EC ON INTERNAL LEVELS.
  
- -IN THE CASE OF PRODUCTS FROM PREFERENTIAL COUNTRIES
- NOT COVERED BY BILATERAL AGREEMENTS, THE COMMISSION
- WILL INTERVENE IN THE EVENT OF A SUBSTANTIAL
- INCREASE IN IMPORTS.

2. UK SECRETARY OF STATE FOR TRADE, EDMUND DELL, CHARACTERIZED THE COUNCIL ACTION AS A PACKAGE DEAL. THE UK HAD BEEN SATISFIED WITH THE COMMISSION'S AGREEMENT WITH GREECE WHICH ESTABLISHED VOLUNTARY GREEK LIMITATIONS ON TWELVE CATEGORIES OF PRODUCTS. (REF B). THE UK HAD ALSO BEEN REASSURED BY THE COMMISSION, DELL TOLD REPORTERS, THAT SHOULD IT BECOME NECESSARY, THE COMMISSION WOULD INVOKE SAFEGUARD MEASURES AGAINST TEXTILE IMPORTS FROM SPAIN. ACCORDING TO DELL, THE UK LIMITED OFFICIAL USE

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HAD SUCCESSFULLY INSISTED ON TWO FURTHER ASSURANCES -- THAT THE COMMISSION WOULD INTERVENE IN THE FACE OF AN "IMMINENT THREAT" OF AN IMPORT CEILING BEING EXCEEDED WITHOUT WAITING FOR IT TO BE EXCEEDED, AND THAT IT WOULD ALSO INTERVENE WHEN A "NEW DANGER" FROM IMPORTS NOT PREVIOUSLY SUBJECT TO IMPORT RESTRICTIONS BECOMES EVIDENT. THESE FOUR COMMISSION ACTIONS WERE SUFFICIENT, DELL SAID, TO PROTECT BRITISH INDUSTRY AND THEREFORE THE UK HAD LIFTED ITS RESERVATION TO THE PORTUGUESE AGREEMENT. (REF C). HINTON

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## Message Attributes

**Automatic Decaptioning:** X  
**Capture Date:** 01 jan 1994  
**Channel Indicators:** n/a  
**Current Classification:** UNCLASSIFIED  
**Concepts:** TEXTILES, MEETINGS, NEGOTIATIONS  
**Control Number:** n/a  
**Copy:** SINGLE  
**Draft Date:** 27 jul 1978  
**Decaption Date:** 01 jan 1960  
**Decaption Note:**  
**Disposition Action:** RELEASED  
**Disposition Approved on Date:**  
**Disposition Case Number:** n/a  
**Disposition Comment:** 25 YEAR REVIEW  
**Disposition Date:** 20 Mar 2014  
**Disposition Event:**  
**Disposition History:** n/a  
**Disposition Reason:**  
**Disposition Remarks:**  
**Document Number:** 1978BRUSSE14659  
**Document Source:** CORE  
**Document Unique ID:** 00  
**Drafter:** n/a  
**Enclosure:** n/a  
**Executive Order:** N/A  
**Errors:** N/A  
**Expiration:**  
**Film Number:** D780310-1039  
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**Original Handling Restrictions:** n/a  
**Original Previous Classification:** n/a  
**Original Previous Handling Restrictions:** n/a  
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**Previous Classification:** LIMITED OFFICIAL USE  
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**Reference:** 78 BRUSSELS 12801, 78 BRUSSELS 13445  
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**Review Action:** RELEASED, APPROVED  
**Review Content Flags:**  
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**Review Event:**  
**Review Exemptions:** n/a  
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**Review Release Date:** N/A  
**Review Release Event:** n/a  
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**Review Withdrawn Fields:** n/a  
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**Status:** NATIVE  
**Subject:** EC FOREIGN MINISTERS COUNCIL, JULY 25: TEXTILES  
**TAGS:** ETRD, GR, SP, PO, EEC  
**To:** STATE  
**Type:** TE  
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**Review Markings:**  
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